Spring 2006

March 16, 2006

Kansas Environmental Health Association Newsletter

Affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association and the International Association of Food Protection

Formerly Kansas Association of Sanitarians



Special points of interest:

- KEHA Spring Conference
- · Water Quality Assessment Tool
- KDHE Brownfield Target Grant Program
- KELP Updates
- NEHA/IAFP Conference Dates

Message From the President

Tom Morey

I hope you all have had a good winter and a happy St. Patrick's Day. From the stories I am hearing, it seems like the mild weather has kept many of us working hard in the field, leaving the paperwork for a rainy day, which can only come too soon for most of the state and it looks like the winter weather we wanted finally came for some of us on the first day of Spring. We have a lot planned for the rest of the year. Bronson has put together a good spring conference and is already lining up some excellent speakers and topics for the fall conference in Salina. Start thinking now about nominations for board positions and our annual awards. The fall conference will be here before you know it.

I have a couple of things that I want to work on before my time as president is done, specifically a formalized membership database and an increase in our active membership. I will be calling on some of you to help me with these tasks and if I don't contact you, and you have some suggestions, please fell free to pass them along. In addition to these, I am also going to follow up on the letter that was developed for Secretary Bremby and the meeting that was initiated by Mike Kopf and Karen Purvis. Any opportunity that we have to advocate for our members and our organization at the State level, should be taken.

If there is anything that you would like to see accomplished, either short-term or long-term, within the association, please either let me, or one of the other board members know. I hope everyone has a good, wet spring and look forward to seeing you all at Rock Springs.

Tom



KEHA Spring 2006 Conference, April 27-28

Below, you will find the agenda, registration information and maps for the upcoming Spring KEHA conference. This years conference will be held in Junction City at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch. Registration forms should be sent to Greg Willis as soon as possible. Hope to see you all there.



2006 Spring Conference Program

Rock Springs 4-H Center Junction City, Kansas

Thursday, April 27th

12:00-12:45	Registration Johnson Administration Center	5:00 - 5:45	Room check-in
1:00-1:15	Opening Remarks, Tom Morey KEHA President	6:00 - 6:45	Dinner @ Williams Dining Hall
1:15-1:30	Grant survey Dan Partridge-Reno County	Dark - ?	Council Circle Campfire Beverages, Smores, Stories.
1:30-2:30	World Water Monitoring Day/ Water Festival	Friday April 28 th	
	Roger Daniels-Labette County	7:30 - 8:00	Breakfast @ Williams Dining Hall
2:30-3:00	Mandatory Food Handler Cards in Saline County	8:45 - 9:45	Katrina Hurricane Naomie Bienfang-Reno county
	Melissa Heinrich-Saline County	9:45 - 10:00	Break
3:00 - 3:15	Break	10:00 -11:00	Army Environmental Specialist
3:15—4:15	Water Well Plugging Project Bobbie Strait-Seward Co Planning & Zoning Scott Selee-Southwest LEPG	11:00 - 11:45	Ron Phillips-Geary Co Integrated Pest Management Bill Wildman-Fort Riley.
4:15 - 4:30	Water well Testing Project Douglas Schneweis-KDHE	11:45 -12:15	Open Microphone and Closing
4:30-5:00	Discussion of KEHA/KPHA joint conference future. Tom Morey-KEHA Presdent	1:00 -?	KEHA Board Meeting



2006 Spring Conference Registration

DUE BY April 15, 2006

NAME		
ADDRESS:		

Please mail the entire sheet	to:
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Greg Willis 373 W. 6th Hoisington, KS 67544

Conference Registration	KEHA member registered by 04/15/06	\$ 55.00	
Conference Registration	KEHA member registered after 04/15/06	\$ 60.00	
Conference Registration	KEHA non-member	\$ 65.00	
Conference and Lodging	KEHA member registered by 04/15/06	\$ 70.00	
Conference and Lodging	KEHA member registered after 04/15/06	\$ 75.00	
Conference and Lodging	KEHA non-member	\$ 80.00	
2006 CEU's (if not already p	paid at or since the 2004 Fall Conf)	\$ 7.50	
2006 KEHA Membership D	Oues (if not already paid at or since the 2005 Fall Conf)	\$ 20.00	
Scholarship Donation		\$	

Please complete and send with your registration, one for each person attending.

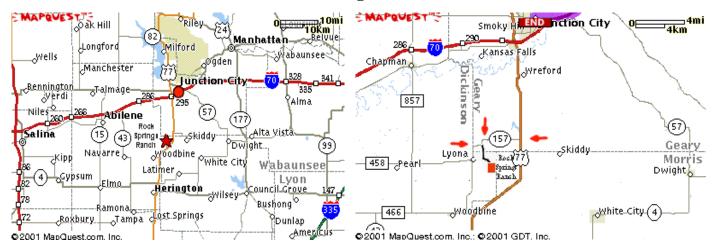
RECEIPT: 2006 KEHA SPRING CONFERENCE

Name:	_ Conference	\$
	Lodging	\$
Address:	CEU'S	\$
	Dues	\$
	_ Scholarship	\$
	Other	\$
Organization:	_	
	Total	\$
Greg Willis, Treasurer	_	



KEHA 2006 Spring Conference Map

Directions: From the Junction of I-70 and U.S.77, travel eight miles south on U.S. 77. Turn right (west) at the junction of K-157 and follow the blacktop highway 4 miles west and south through the gateway and into Rock Springs Ranch. Registration begins at noon at the Johnson Administration Building.







New Water Quality Protection Assessment Tool

A new tool has been developed for agriculture service centers to assess the environmental impact of their operations. Located at www.sbeap.org under the "Training Tools" link, this Web-based tool developed by the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) is especially focused on protecting surface water and groundwater quality. A user begins by answering inventory questions to determine what assessment topics apply to his or her facility. Assessment topics include the following:

General housekeeping
Pesticide storage and handling
Fertilizer storage and handling
Spill prevention, control, and countermeasure planning
Liquid fuel storage and handling
Grain storage and handling
Water supply and wells
Solid and hazardous waste
Wastewater
Storm water and erosion management
Equipment/vehicle maintenance and repair

A series of assessment questions are asked to determine the facility's knowledge of its environmental regulatory obligations and best management practices. The assessments can be done in stages, and the tool will save answers for a two-week period so the user can continue from where he or she last stopped. A report of the user's assessment results can be printed. A similar tool is being developed for recreational vehicle (RV) parks and campgrounds and should be available in June.

Benefits to performing the assessment include facility's ability to identify and prioritize areas or practices that need improvement. Making such improvements can lessen that facility's chances of contributing to surface water or groundwater contamination. This is most critical when nearby water is the source of the facility's or community's drinking water supply. Also, making improvements can lessen the chance of a surprise regulatory inspection initiated as a result of a public complaint.

SBEAP is operated by the Pollution Prevention Institute at Kansas State University. SBEAP provides free, confidential assistance to small- and medium-sized businesses to help identify and resolve environmental compliance issues. Call 800-578-8898 or visit www.sbeap.org.

Keeping in touch with the folks that make up the KEHA is very important to the officers and Board of Directors. If you did not get an e-mail asking for your contributions for the upcoming KEHA spring newsletter than please send us an e-mail so you can be added to the list.!!



CDC Announces New Computer-Based Case Study

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the release of a new computer-based case study, "Gastroenteritis at a University in Texas." Based on a real-life outbreak investigation, this self-instructional, interactive exercise teaches epidemiologic skills in outbreak investigation and allows students to apply and practice those skills. "Gastroenteritis at a University in Texas" is the third in the *Foodborne Disease Outbreak Investigation Case Study Series*. The first case study in the series was "Botulism in Argentina" (released in 2002) and the second was "*E. coli* O157:H7 Infection in Michigan" (released in 2004). The three case studies form a curriculum that covers a wide range of outbreak investigation topics. Each case study was developed in collaboration with the original investigators and experts from CDC and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

Students can receive continuing-education credits (e.g., CEUs, CMEs, CNEs, CECHs) for completing each case study. All three studies can be downloaded for free or purchased on CD-ROM through the Epidemiologic Case Studies Web site at www.cdc.gov/epicasestudies/.

KDHE Brownfield Target Grant Program

Do you need help with a potentially hazardous property in your region?

KDHE has a new tool that may assist local government agencies and not-for-profit entities in assessing and identifying publicly owned properties that have potential public health risks issues. The Brownfield Target Assessment Program is a program based on the grant that KDHE was awarded by the EPA to assess properties that have "risky" or "perceived" risky pasts.

Why should you care?

Some of these properties could be causing soil or groundwater pollution that impact human health or the environment. As environmental sanitarians and professionals, it is our duty to help communities become aware of potential public health risks and the tools available to assess, and hopefully, correct the problems. It can be as simple as a property that is under-utilized just because *no one is certain* if the property has environmental problems.

Why use the KDHE Brownfield Target Grant Program?

The KDHE grant was designed to assist communities in the assessment of real or perceived environmental problems; then based on the assessment information, the community can make wise and informed decisions. For example, perhaps a local entity is stuck with the problem property that is derailing the economic growth and development plans for their community, or perhaps the community's economic base is too tight to pay for an expert to investigate the environmental concerns surrounding a particular property, or perhaps the community doesn't even recognize that they may have a property with potential environmental problems; in each case the community or not-for-profit entity can apply to the KDHE program for help. To get more details and contact information check the KDHE web site at: http://www.kdheks.gov/brownfields/index.html



Dr. Douglas Powell

www.foodsafetynetwork.ca

I used to steal toilet paper.

As an undergraduate 25 years ago, and once my girlfriend showed me how to get at the theft-proof rolls in the university center, the supplies of toilet paper in our household became one less student expense. My hockey bag is still filled with those little soaps and shampoos from hotel rooms around the globe.

I was the kind of student -- and apparently I'm not alone -- University of Guelph administrators in Canada were worried about when they say that residence students should provide their own handwashing soap. About a year ago, the university switched to sanitizers instead of soap and

paper towels in the residence washrooms because soap dispensers, paper towels and garbage cans went missing. That was before a recent norovirus outbreak sickened over 150 students, primarily in one university residence. The university has now placed soap and paper towels in all residences to help control the outbreak, and a team will review whether the soap and paper

towels will remain a permanent fixture.

The mother of one of the sick Guelph students said, "Who in your own house carries your own soap to the washroom?" while a student stated, "We pay so much money in tuition . . . I just don't think it should be considered a luxury for us to have the basic things to keep ourselves sanitary."

From norovirus to avian influenza to prevention of numerous other yucky things, thorough handwashing is routinely touted as the best defense. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that up to 25 per cent of the 76 million annual cases of foodborne illness in the U.S. could be eliminated with proper handwashing. That's a lot fewer sick people.

So why don't more people wash their hands?

While some practice a Howard Hughes-like paranoia, study after study shows that many are lazy when it comes to handwashing. The proclamations to practice proper handwashing, on restroom posters, in daycare facilities, in media scare stories, will always fail to register with those who are impervious to risk -- that bad things happen to someone else, not me. But as the Guelph example demonstrates, anything that can even slightly encourage proper handwashing and hygiene in general needs to be encouraged -- and that means ready availability of soap, warm water and paper towels. Once available, the facilities have to actually be used, whether in the workplace, the home, the university residence, or, the farm.

For example, one farmer who packs fresh vegetables recognized the need for handwashing holiness and invested \$10,000 to upgrade washroom facilities and provide gloves to employees, only to find an employee, his gloves still on, urinating on the ground outside the washroom. Proper handwashing and hygiene, especially in the minimum-wage, high-turnover reality of the farm-to-fork food system, needs to be enforced and encouraged.

If it's easy to say that people should just wash their hands, it's even easier to say that sick food employees should just stay home.

In April 2005, a sick employee -- who had worked at a family run restaurant in Calgary for 25 years -- passed the E. coli 0157:H7 she was carrying from her tainted hands to the Marshmallow milkshake flavoring she was preparing to 16 customers, including a 15-year-old who was hospitalized for nearly a month. The restaurant owner said the contamination did not come from unsafe practices, but from a sick staff member, and asked, "If someone brings it in from outside, what can you do?"



You can stress proper hygiene, and, as an added hurdle, tell the sick employee to stay home.

Carrabba's Italian Grill, a Lansing, Michigan restaurant that was the source of a noro-virus outbreak that sickened over 400 people in late January and early February, 2006, is about to discover the economics of hygiene -- in the form of lawsuits. Already, reports are surfacing that sick employees showed up to work.

A food service employee in Lansing recently wrote that "What happened at Carrabba's could occur at any of our local eateries. Not because their kitchens are not clean, not because they don't follow all of the safety standards, but because sick employees report to work. There is an internal peer pressure to report to work even when you are ill, not to mention that a day without pay can be crucial for some families."

The industry spokesthingies may say that sick employees should not work, but the reality is, no work, no pay. So, for the food industry, tell your sick employees to stay at home, and perhaps even provide incentives, like allowing for a couple of sick days. The cost of a few workers abusing the system pales in comparison to the lawsuits and lost business.

For the University of Guelph residences, soap and paper towels should remain a fixture. Whatever the students are stealing, it probably pales in comparison to the salaries and overtime for those who had to manage the outbreak.

And if all of this sounds inconvenient, ask one of the hundreds who got sick.

Douglas Powell is scientific director of the Food Safety Network at the University of Guelph.

dpowell@uoguelph.ca 785-317-0560

Healthcare for a Healthy Environment

Partnership brings national healthcare pollution prevention program to Kansas

Health department clinics and healthcare facilities are in the business of promoting and caring for the health of their communities, but the amount and toxicity of waste that comes from caring for patients is often detrimental to the environment and health of that same community.

The Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E) program is a landmark collaborative effort between several national groups including the EPA and the American Nurses Association. Kansas has adopted the program's elements and supports an initiative called Kansas Healthcare for a Healthy Environment or KH2E.

KH2E will work with our health departments in the state to identify ways of meeting the following national goals:

- virtual elimination of mercury-containing devices and waste
- * reduction in toxics use
- * medical and solid waste reduction
- increased environmental compliance

This fall, KH2E will host a workshop for healthcare professionals in Kansas City. To learn more about the Kansas program, go to http://www.sbeap.org/ppi/industry/medical.htm or contact Nancy Larson of K-State's Pollution Prevention Institute at 800-578-8898.

What's in Your Water?

That's the question posed by a team of participants in the 2005 KELP class offered through K-State Research and Extension. As part of the class, participants are divided into teams to work on a water-related project.

According to K-State research, only 40 percent of private wells meet safe drinking water standards used for public systems. EPA reports about 15 percent of Americans have their own source of drinking water and they should have it tested yearly for coliform bacteria, nitrates and other contaminants.

The team chose to develop an awareness campaign for private water well users to have their well water tested by creating an informational packet. The packet is being sent to Local Environmental Protection Programs (LEPP's), county extension offices and county conservation districts. Each packet contains three posters, a news release and CD with two pre-recorded radio PSA's. The information is also available on the Web at www.KSWaterWell.org

If you have any questions feel free to contact one of these KELP team members:

Bronson Farmer Saline County Health - Salina 785-826-6604 bronsonf@salhelp.org

Herbert Graves SAKW - Abline 785-922-6664 sakwwatersheds@sbcglobal.net

Doug Schneweis KDHE - Hays 785-625-5663 dschnewe@kdhe.state.ks.us Keena Privat Lyon County Health - Emporia 620-342-4864 kprivat@flinthillshealth.org

Gerry Snyder KSU - Manhattan 785-532-6270 gsnyder@ksu.edu

To learn more about the Kansas Environmental Leadership Program (KELP) please visit **www.oznet. ksu.edu/kelp** or contact Morgan Powell or Judy Willingham at 785-532-2932

Must read for any one in the Onsite Waste Water Industry!! "Confined space accident claims three".

A lack of understanding of a confined space and its associated dangers was at the heart of an accident at a Quebec campsite in the summer of 2004 that claimed three lives. On August 28, 2004, an employee of Camping Lac du Repos, located in the Municipality of Saint-Jean-Baptiste, was trying to unclog the outlet pipe of the campground's septic tank when the deadly events were set in motion, says information from the Commission de la sant et de la s du travail (CSST).

Steve Villeneuve climbed down into the pumping station adjacent to the septic tank and unblocked the flow pipe, says CSST spokesperson Eric Arseneault. This released a flood of liquid and H2S from the septic tank into the station, Arseneault says. Villeneuve, overcome, collapsed on the ladder and died. Campground owner R=E9jean Royer tried to rescue Villeneuve, but he too succumbed to the gas. Royer fell to the floor and could not be revived. A camper then descended into the station and passed out on the ladder, but was later rescued and revived. Two more campers attempted a rescue, one perishing, Arseneault says. The CSST estimated the level of H2S at more than 500 ppm, far above the workplace limit of 15 ppm for 15 minutes of exposure. The CSST concluded that Camping Lac Du Repos failed to do everything necessary to ensure worker health and safety. The campground was not fined, however, because the owner died.



<u>Kansas Environmental Leadership</u> <u>Program Update</u>

The 6th KELP class graduated in October, 2005. Each class divides into teams, chooses an issue or concern, and devices a project to address it. The projects chosen by this class were:

** A traveling educational exhibit focused on the Stranger Creek watershed. *Dick Moppin, Leavenworth County is a member of this team.*

- ** Develop and place educational maps and brochures at existing park kiosks around Perry Lake to promote public awareness about protection of the Delaware Watershed.
- ** Teach children to develop personal habits that conserve water as they learn about the state's precious, limited water resources.

 Roger Daniels, LaBette County, and Steve Johnson, McPherson County are members of this team.
- ** Educate private water well owners regarding the need to periodically test their well water by developing a poster, radio PSA, and a testing information website http://www.kswaterwell.org/. Bronson Farmer, Saline County, and Keena Privat, Lyon County, are members of this team. (NOTE: every county sanitarian should have received a set of these materials. Please put up the poster and distribute the PSA locally.)

KELP Class 7, 2006, is underway. The following sanitarians were selected as participants in the current class: *Kelly Dixon*, *Sedgwick County; Peggy Holloway, Reno County; and Daryl Meierhoff, Lyon County*. The first session was held in Hays on January 11-13 and the second session will be in Topeka on March 13-15.

While in Topeka the group will tour a large wastewater treatment plant, see some innovative storm water control efforts, and attend a legislative committee hearing. Also on the agenda are leadership activities and discussions with state agencies that have major responsibilities for water resources in Kansas. Class members can engage presenters in discussion and ask questions. A long-term KELP benefit is the network of resources and influence that everyone develops as people work on their projects and participate in the five sessions.

Watch for an announcement about applying for the 2007 KELP Class. It's an opportunity to develop relationships with people throughout Kansas, and to be part of a project that can really make a difference. KELP offers CEUs, Professional Development Hours (PDHs), and academic credit as well.

Questions?? Contact Judy Willingham, R.S., KELP Coordinator, K-State Research and Extension at (785) 532-5813 or by email <kelp@ksu.edu>

J.C.C.S. Update

The Joint Committee for Credentialing of Sanitarians is pleased to announce the names of those who passed the recent R.S. exam: Darcy Basye with Reno County Health Dept.; Steve DeHart, Riley County-Manhattan Health Dept.; Daryl Meierhoff, Lyon County Health Dept.; and Keena Privat, Lyon County Health Dept. Do congratulate these folks on their achievement!! They will receive their certificates at the K.E.H.A. annual fall conference.

The next R.S. exam will be offered in Wichita on May 12, 2006. If you wish to take the exam, be sure to get your application, transcript, and \$100.00 testing fee in to John Davis, R.S. by April 15, 2006. John's address is: P.O. Box 8795, Wichita KS 67208. Act now. The application can be downloaded from the KEHA website < http://www.e-keha.org/download/jccs_appl.pdf>

Suggested study materials for the exam are available on the KEHA website < http://www.e-keha.org/studying_for_rs_exam.htm>. Karen Purvis, R.S. keeps track of the four study guides, which may be checked out for periods of 90 days. Contact Karen at (785) 628-9449 or by email, <karen@ellisco.net>

Renewals are underway. If you have questions about your renewal date or requirements, contact John Davis, R.S. (316) 685-7929 or by email <dav1229@attglobal. net>. Don't forget that if you change addresses or jobs, you must notify J.C.C.S. with a current address or contact. It enables us to contact you for renewal information.

At the last J.C.C.S. meeting, a change was made regarding individual records of Continuing Education Units (CEUs). In the future, each Registered Sanitarian will be responsible for maintaining documentation of training for renewal of the R.S. The renewal application will ask for a list of the training attended within the last three years. The list will include the title of the training/ seminar/conference, the date(s), and the number of contact hours. Documentation is subject to audit by J.C.C.S. So beginning now, start a file with certificates of attendance, agendas, or other evidence of your attendance. When renewal comes up, you'll have the information for your list.

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Formerly Kansas Association of Sanitarians

WE'RE ON THE WEB! WWW.E-KEHA.ORG The Objective of the Kansas Environmental Health Association is to promote competency and effectiveness in sanitarians and other environmentalists engaged in the regulation of the Kansas environment including, but not limited to, food service establishments, commercial food preparation facilities, dairy products businesses, meat processing plants, bakeries, commercial lodging and hotels, swimming pools, water supplies, wastewater treatment and disposal, solid waste collection and disposal, air pollution control, radiation control, hazardous waste materials management, pesticide usage, institutions, schools, nursing homes, hospitals and health care facilities, recreational camps and public events.

National Conferences

NEHA Conferences

The 70th Annual **National Environmental Health Association** Conference for 2006 is to be held in San Antonio, Texas!

Bronson Farmer will be representing KEHA in San Antonio

<u>Over 150 sessions in 17 EH technical sections</u> will be presented, including Terrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness, Food Safety and Protection, Onsite Wastewater Systems, Indoor Air Quality, Vector Control, and many others

For details on all conference information please go to the NEHA website at www.neha.org

IAFP Conference (International Association for Food Protection)

IAFP 2006 - the Association's 93rd Annual Meeting August 13 - 16, 2006 Telus Convention Center Calgary, Alberta

For details on conference information please go to the IAFP website at www.foodprotection.org/

Kansas Department of Health and Environment, (KDHE) Bureau of Watershed Management funded a target grant for the various Local Environmental Protection Programs (LEPP) in the state to participate in the Kansas Small Flows Conference. KDHE target grants paid for all or a portion of the conference for 26 LEPP's. Most of these included membership in KSFA and in NOWRA. The total target grant amount was \$7,262 for an average of \$270 per LEPP. Thirty-five LEPP's were represented by 46 staff members.

Below are excerpts of Andrew Stull's observations while at the KSF conference. Andrew Stull is an Environmental Health Specialist with the Lawrence-Douglas Co. Health Dept.

The 2006 Small Flows Conference in Wichita, KS was a very informative and worthwhile event. The atmosphere created by the event was very professional and consequently made the sessions easier to learn from. The main purpose of this conference seemed to stress the importance of proper design and maintaining of alternative septic systems. Also, the need for requiring maintenance contracts for these alternative systems was discussed at great length.

The Onsite Basic Training course was the best learning tool available at the conference. It was very well taught by various professionals with differing backgrounds. Some of the speakers were engineers, contractors, or representatives from various onsite system manufacturers. Each speaker was very well versed in their perspective topic which made for very lively discussion in the Q & A time of the class. The course curriculum consisted of Microbiology of Wastewater, Soils, Basic Math in Wastewater, and Wastewater Quality and Quantity.

I am looking forward to the next Kansas Small Flows conference. They seem to get better each year. It is a great way to build relationships within the onsite field so we can unite in our purpose to protect the environment for future generations.